



THE SOCIETY FOR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS
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Testimony on HB 110 House Finance Committee

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Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and Esteemed Committee Members,

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer this testimony on Ohio's operating budget!

My name is Shelly Wharton and I am the Associate Executive Director of The Society for Handicapped Citizens of Medina County, Inc., and we are located in Medina, Ashland, Huron and Crawford counties. We are a non-profit that provides supports for approximately 200 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ over 170 staff.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). With these budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis, Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like mine provide.

The Society has offered services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 67 years. We currently offer residential services in nine intermediate care facilities situated throughout a number of neighborhoods in Medina County and homemaker personal care services to individuals living in congregate and individual settings in Medina, Ashland and Huron counties. We also operate adult day services in these counties. Typically, in the summer we operate a summer camp for adults with developmental disabilities, but that has been sidelined by the coronavirus. We also offer representative payee services and non-medical transportation.

Additional investments in our field will allow us to continue to partner with the individuals to live their best lives. Funding matters. We collaborate closely with our county board of developmental disabilities along with other agencies in offering supports and advocacy for the population we serve. The important funding we are requesting will assist us in attracting and retaining dedicated and talented employees. Unfortunately, the payment methodologies in our field do not permit us to merely raise the cost of services as other industries might. Hence, we are requesting your support.

To best support these services and the Ohioans who receive and provide them, I encourage you to support the addition of the following initiatives into Ohio's biennium budget:

- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to fund much needed Homemaker and Personal Care, Day and Vocational Services and Nonmedical Transportation Medicaid home and community based